



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS \$7,500,000 TO THE IRON COUNTY HOSPITAL

Greg C. Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented a \$7,500,000 Mock Check to Iron County Hospital, on November 22, 2005. The loan is part of the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities loan and grant program and will be used to build a new critical access hospital in Pilot Knob which will provide much needed medical services where none exists now. The proposed facility will be a new 36,000 square foot, 15-bed critical access hospital, providing both inpatient and out patient services, along with an emergency room.



Virginia Queen, City Clerk, Donna Martin, Jack Adams, Dwayne Warncke, Southern Dist. Commissioner, Terry Nichols, Presiding Commissioner, Reggie Burns, Western Dist. Commissioner, Greg Branum, JC Kuessner, State Rep. 152<sup>nd</sup> District, Bob Halket, Mayor of Ironton, Kevin Hinkebein, and Dave Huff, County Assessor  
Back row: Sheriff Allen Mathes, Roy Carr, Arcadia Mayor, Bob Fox, Pilot Knob Alderman, Carl Strange, Pros. Atty. Iron County, Linda Kemp, County Collector, and Norma Owens, County Clerk

"Having access to quality health care is so critical to our rural communities," said Sen.

Talent. "The residents of Pilot Knob and surrounding areas will now be able to see doctors and nurses locally without having to travel to larger communities. Additionally, they will have an emergency medical treatment service for critical care situations. I will continue to work with Senator Bond and Congresswoman Emerson secure funds for quality health care in rural Missouri."

"Rural health care presents great challenges in Missouri, because there are often great distances between our medical facilities and the residents they serve. In Pilot Knob, we are making a special effort to extend health care to underserved communities. This is an important project which deserves federal support. Our U.S. Senators and USDA Rural Development have made this project a priority, and I appreciate their advocacy for health care facilities in Southern Missouri," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The Presiding Commissioner of Iron County, Terry Nichols stated that, "This hospital will not only serve the medical needs of the people of Iron County, but also the many thousands of tourists who visit our communities each year. The generous funding the USDA Rural Development has structured for this project will help to provide the basis for financial success of our hospital in the years to come. With cooperation from the USDA Rural Development area and state offices the helpful assistance of our federal and state legislators, and the wonderful effort put forth by the many citizens of Iron County, we have successfully reached our financial goal to construct our hospital."

“This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of providing much needed medical services. The construction of a new critical access hospital will go a long way towards meeting the needs of the people in Iron County.” said Greg Branum, State Director for USDA Rural Development. Branum added, “This project mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make the hospital a reality. Special appreciation is extended to U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. Economic development, the creation of jobs and funding essential services mirror the Agency’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of increasing economic opportunity within rural communities and improving the quality of life of rural residents”.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Kevin Hinkebein, Rural Development Manager, at 812 Progress Dr. Farmington, Missouri 63640 or by calling (573)-756-6413 extension 4.

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

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